

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-10, 12 and 15 are allowed. For the purposes of allowance, the original numbering of the claims has been changed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The general concept of providing a headset interface circuit that allows for the use of either a mono or stereo type headset was known in the art at the time of the invention, as evidenced by Kurosawa et al (US 4,433,209), See Abstract. The Examiner has not found prior art that teaches or suggests the modification of the Kurosawa reference in order to provide an audio playback device wherein a mono headset plug is inserted into a stereo headset driver, the device comprising a blocking capacitor disposed between the stereo headset driver and a first load resistance, wherein the blocking capacitor is configured to filter DC voltage from the stereo headset driver, as presented in the independent claims 1, 3, 8 and 9. Other prior art has been cited herein regarding monaural and stereophonic headset jacks, however the other prior art of record also fails to teach or provide suggestion to arrive the combination of the elements and steps presented in the independent claims, again when said elements or steps are collectively considered in regards to each claim. For at least the reasons listed above, the dependent claims are also allowed in view of their respective dependencies upon the independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

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preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled

“Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lin et al (US 6,928,176 B2) discloses a switching circuit built in IC for an earphone device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON R. KURR whose telephone number is (571)272-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00am to 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on (571) 273-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason R Kurr/
Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/Vivian Chin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614